



News Release

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Two Week Extension for Comments on Additional Route Proposed for Surveying for Atlantic Coast Pipeline

Elkins, WV (July 1, 2015) – U.S.D.A. Forest Service officials on the Monongahela National Forest have extended by two weeks a public comment period for a proposed amendment to an existing special use permit. Proponents of the proposed Atlantic Coast Pipeline have requested an amendment to the temporary special use permit they hold to conduct site survey and testing on the Monongahela National Forest. The amendment would add another route to be surveyed. “Because of the 4th of July holiday falling during the comment period I have decided to extend the period an additional two weeks, until close of business on July 20, 2015,” said Monongahela National Forest Supervisor Clyde Thompson. “It’s important to us that anyone who has comments they might care to make have the opportunity to do so.”

The additional route is located in Pocahontas County further south than the line already under permit for survey work. It is approximately 2,000 feet wide by a total of 5.13 miles long on National Forest System lands. This proposed route is referred to by the applicant as the MNF5 route. It crosses Monongahela National Forest land in the vicinity of the Elk River, Slaty Ridge, and Dunmore.

Maps and project information are available on the Forest Service’s Atlantic Coast Pipeline web page at: <http://www.fs.fed.gov/detail/gwj/home?cid=stelprd3824603>. All Forest Service information for both the George Washington National Forest portion of the proposed project in Virginia, and the Monongahela National Forest portion in West Virginia are kept together on this same web site.

Survey and testing work proposed for this additional line includes a routing survey; an environmental survey; cultural resources survey; and a civil survey. Information gained from these surveys will be used in determining the feasibility of the proposed alternative route and to collect environmental and cultural information which will be used by the Forest Service in making future decisions on whether or not to allow the construction and operation of the proposed pipeline on the Monongahela National Forest. If construction is ultimately allowed, the survey information would also inform the Forest Service of specific locations to avoid or where impacts to sensitive species must be reduced.

Comments may be hand delivered to the Forest during regular business hours; faxed to 304-637-0582; or mailed to Monongahela National Forest, Attn: Atlantic Coast Pipeline Proposed Alternative Route Comments, 200 Sycamore Street, Elkins, WV 26241. They may also be e-mailed to: comments-eastern-monongahela-marlinton@fs.fed.us. Please include the project name (Atlantic Coast Pipeline Proposed Alternative Route) in the subject line on all communications.